



Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin

Menominee Tribal Legislature
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Karen Washinawatok, Chairwoman
Stephanie Awonohopay, Vice-Chairwoman
Tony Warrington, Secretary

Council Members:

Kenneth Fish
Gary Besaw
Annmarie Johnson
Laurie Boivin
Regina Washinawatok
Joan Delabruce

Location: Menominee County, northeast Wisconsin



Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin

Tribal Statistics

There are currently 8,181 Menominee tribal members

- 19 and under = 2,273
- Ages 20 - 64 = 5,397
- 65 and older = 306

The Menominee Reservation is located entirely within Menominee County, totaling 235,524 acres.

- Approximately 98 percent of acreage is trust land and 2 percent of acreage is fee land
- The Menominee Tribe has no additional trust land outside their contiguous boundaries
- Approximately 3,655 tribal members live on reservation, trust, or fee land along with 1,202 non-tribal members
- Additionally, large numbers of tribal members live in Shawano, Brown and Milwaukee Counties

Tribal Government

The Menominee Tribal Legislature is composed of nine members

- A chairperson
- Vice-chairperson
- Secretary
- Six legislators
- The legislature meets twice a month
- Decisions are made by a majority rule
- Elections are held in January every year. Each member is elected for a three-year term. Terms are staggered to facilitate yearly-elections
- Officers of the Tribal Legislature (chairperson, vice-chairperson, and secretary) are elected by the Tribal Legislature and serve one-year terms

Brief History

The Menominee Indian Tribe's current reservation was created in 1854 through treaty with the United States of America. The tribe has always exercised hunting and fishing rights on its reservation, even during the period from 1961 to 1973 when federal supervision over the tribe was terminated. In 1968, the U.S. Supreme Court held that the tribe's hunting and fishing treaty rights survived termination. *Menominee Tribe v. United States*, 391 U.S. 404 (1968).

In the 1990's, the tribe sought to exercise off reservation hunting and fishing rights by bringing suit against the State of Wisconsin in the U.S. Court for the Western District of

Wisconsin. That court found in favor of the State of Wisconsin, and on appeal, the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the lower courts ruling. The tribe petitioned the U.S. Supreme Court for a writ of certiorari, but the Court refused to hear the case. Therefore, currently the tribe exercises no off-reservation treaty rights.

The tribe generally retains its sovereign immunity from suit. Article XVIII of the Constitution and Bylaws of the tribe allows suit to be brought against the tribe in Menominee Tribal Court by those subject to the tribe's jurisdiction. Suit may be brought against the tribe to enforce an ordinance of the tribe, a provision of the Menominee Constitution, or a provision of the Indian Civil Rights Act. The Menominee Tribal Legislature is prohibited from waiving the tribe's sovereign immunity in any other manner.

Businesses chartered by the tribe pursuant to Article XIII of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Menominee Indian Tribe are allowed to waive their sovereign immunity from suit.

Tribal Services

Law Enforcement

- The Menominee Tribal police force employs 47 people, 22 of whom are sworn law enforcement officers that operate exclusively within the reservation boundaries
- Law enforcement is funded by federal, state, and tribal funds, with the overwhelming majority coming from the tribe and the federal government
- The state funding tribal law enforcement does receive is through the state Department of Justice

Court System

- Menominee Tribal Court is a court of general jurisdiction for both civil and criminal matters. Except for some major crimes that are handled by the federal courts, tribal court handles the same types and variety of cases as a Wisconsin circuit court. These include: criminal, juvenile delinquency, Juveniles In Need of Protective Services, Child in Need of Protection/Services, civil litigation, probate, guardianships, mental health and alcohol commitments, traffic, civil ordinance violations, Termination of Parental Rights and adoptions
- The court system is funded through federal and tribal funds

Education

- Menominee youth are educated in two primary public school districts. These districts are:
- Menominee Indian School District (1,013 students/99.7% of the student body). This includes the Keshena Primary School in Keshena, the Menominee Indian Middle School in Neopit, and the Menominee Indian High School in Keshena
 - Shawano-Gresham School District (463 Menominee & Mohican students/15.7%)
- (Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction)

One tribally-administered school:

- The Menominee Tribal School is a K - 8 grade school
- Total enrollment of 223 students
- The school is accredited
- Receives both federal and tribal funding

The tribe operates an Early Start and Head Start Program:

- The program has a maximum enrollment of 210

The tribe also operates the College of the Menominee Nation

- The college was chartered by the Menominee Tribal Legislature in 1993. The college was granted full accreditation by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA) in 1998.
- The college offers classes at sites on the Oneida as well as Potawatomi reservations so that other Native Americans can benefit from a tribally run college. The college also represents an opportunity for individuals to continue their education while working. A large number of the students are part-time.

Healthcare

- Clinical services include Urgent Care, dental, in-patient, surgery, Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (AODA) programs, ambulatory out-patient health care, optometry, medical, pharmacy, mental health and emergency medical services
- Approximately 8-10% of the population served by the clinic includes non-tribal members
- Funded by federal, tribal and state government. State funding is through the Department of Health and Family Services

Social Services

- Day care receives Tribal and Federal funds, including state funding through the Department of Health and Family Services and the Department of Workforce Development
- Tribal Social Services receives tribal and federal funds, including state funding through the Department of Health and Family Services
- Child support receives funding through the tribal and federal governments
- Family Preservation programs receive tribal and federal funds, including state funding through the Department of Justice and the Department of Health and Family Services
- The Menominee have a recreation program fully funded by the tribal government
- Maehnowesekiyah, a comprehensive AODA treatment center, receives tribal and federal funds, including state funding through the Department of Health and Family Services
- Insurance (MRBG) receives state funding through the Department of Health and Family Services

Economic Enterprises

- The Menominee Tribe employs approximately 1,700 people
- 34% of those are non-Native American
- 66% are Native American
- The Menominee Tribe is currently engaged with the State of Wisconsin Department of Commerce on economic development initiatives

<u>Business</u>	<u>Type of Business</u>
Menominee Casino Bingo & Hotel Keshena, WI	Gaming/lodging/entertainment facility
Menominee Tribal Enterprises Neopit, WI	Forest products/sawmill
College of the Menominee Nation Keshena, WI	Post-secondary education institution